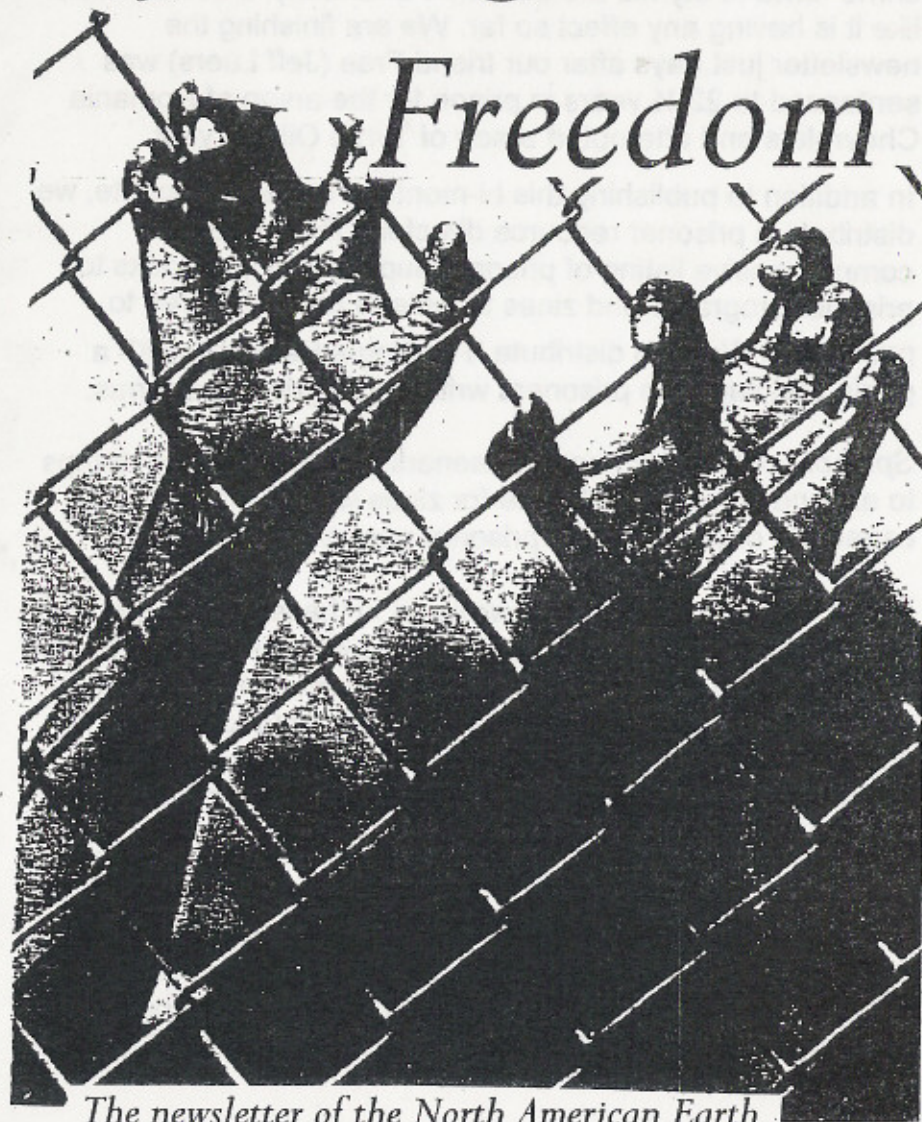


From: NAELPSN
POB 11331
Eugene, OR 97440
USA
Naelpsn@YAHOO.COM

Spirit of Freedom



The newsletter of the North American Earth
Liberation Prisoners Support Network

June/July 2001

Welcome to the June/July 2001 issue of *Spirit of Freedom*. There has been so much going on around the country and in our lives lately. Actions are increasing at a frenzied pace and government lackeys are trying hard to pass sweeping "hate crime" laws to stymie the dissent. Fortunately, it doesn't look like it is having any effect so far. We are finishing the newsletter just days after our friend Free (Jeff Luers) was sentenced to 22 ½ years in prison for the arson of Romania Chevrolets and attempted arson of Tyree Oil last year.

In addition to publishing this bi-monthly newsletter/update, we distribute a prisoner resource directory that includes a comprehensive listing of prisoner support groups, books to prisoner programs and zines to write to (available free to prisoners). We also distribute "Pushing a Better Pencil" - a guide that can help prisoners write better grievance forms.

Spirit of Freedom is free to prisoners and two 33-cent stamps to anyone else. We will trade for zines we are interested in, especially ones related to prisoner support.

Thank you to everyone that wrote us in the last three months and offered support, advice, funds and information and to the prisoners who submitted writings this issue. This newsletter couldn't have come out without the help of our local copy connection (still a secret) who helped us print most of our newsletters and Pendleton Vandiveer, who booked the benefit show for us last month.

Never a Word, My Friend

editor's note: This was submitted anonymously by a prisoner

Our enemy has realized that they can never totally destroy us, but over the years we have learned that we have one weakness: the interrogation of our untrained comrades by the police.

They arrest us in droves, shove us into small cells without toilet facilities, starve us and systematically torture us. Their intention is to break our spirits so that we will tell them everything they want to know; details of direct actions, of any

Vegan Resource Pack- available from PCRM, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 404, Washington DC 20016 They can send a packet about vegan nutrition to wardens and prison dieticians

Frontline Information Service
<http://www.animalliberation.net>

Earth Liberation Front
<http://www.earthliberationfront.com>

NA ELPSN Recommends...

Resistance- Journal of the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office Volume two, Number one

This new issue of *Resistance* begins the second volume in a new 'magazine' format and a full-color cover. Contents include a diary of actions from Fall of 2000 to Spring 2001, updates on the legal situations in Portland, Bloomington and Long Island and much more.

Copies of this issue are available at the following rates:

1 copy = \$5 PPD in the US, \$6 elsewhere
10 copies = \$25 PPD in the US, \$28 elsewhere
25 copies = \$50 PPD in the US, \$55 elsewhere
50 copies = \$75 PPD in the US, \$85 elsewhere

Subscriptions to the entirety of volume two of *Resistance*, consisting of 4 issues, are available for \$20 within the US, \$25 elsewhere.

Please make any checks or money orders out to "Resistance". All proceeds go directly to the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office.

Resistance
PO BOX 4783
PDX, OR 97208
lesliejames@tao.ca
503.478.0902

Bloomington Defense Committee POB 3503, Bloomington,
IN 47402 defensecommittee@yahoo.com 812-333-0173

Santa Cruz 2 Defense Fund, POB 917 Santa Cruz, CA
95060 railpirate@apexmail.com

Free and Critter Support Committee 454 Willamette
Street, Suite 205, Eugene OR 97401 541-343-8548
<http://www.efn.org/~eugpeace/freecritter>

Connor Cash Support c/o Long Island Animal Defense
League (ADL) PO Box 1117, Huntington, NY 11743
(631)340-4708 freeconnorcash@yahoo.com
longislandadl@excite.com

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, POB 583, Lawrence
KS 66044; 913-842-5774

Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network (APLAN) 818 SW
3rd Avenue, PMB 354, Portland, OR 97204 aplan@tao.ca

Northwest Anarchist Prisoner Support Network, POB
11331, Eugene, OR 97440. Distributes Free
and Critter's zine, "Fuck the System, Rob Thaxton's "Rob the
Rich" and "Fuck you Bearden" for \$2 donation.

South Chicago ABC POB 721, Homewood, IL 60430
Publishes the zine, Thought Bombs and distributes a
load of other zines.

Friends of MOVE, POB 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Onward publishes a quarterly magazine and does a load of
prisoner support. To order, send \$2 (\$3 if outside the US)
well-concealed cash, check or money order made out to
ONWARD to the address below The Onward Collective
PO Box 2671 Gainesville FL 32602-2671
theonwardcollective@hotmail.com

No Compromise P.O. Box 1440, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-425-3007 NoComp@waste.org

unsolved crimes; the names of other comrades; even the
names of friends and family. It is your duty to tell them
absolutely nothing and to make their investigation harder by
refusing to cooperate with them.

If you are arrested on suspicion of committing illegal acts ,
the laws in most states say that you can be held for up to 72
hours (holidays and weekends not included) before being
charged or released. Throughout those 72 hours (or more),
the police will question, repeating your interrogation in shifts
to wear you down mentally and physically, trying to catch you
in a lie so that they can break you. They will also try to lure
you, bribe you, and make false promises. Succumb to none
of these!

The 5th Amendment supposedly "protects" us from self-
incrimination, but cops NEVER play by any rules so don't
expect them to. And to dispel the myth, cops don't have to
read you any Miranda rights (whatever those are!). Ever
heard the term "No Comment" ? It's a saying that would be
wise to use when the arresting officers ask anything. They
will try to engage into talking about mundane things if you
refuse their direct questioning, but this is only another ploy.

The only time you should reveal any personal information
(name & address) is when you are being booked into jail. (A
successful sabotage tactic when arrested in a group is to
refuse to be allowed to be booked. The cops really hate that.)
When you are asked questions about your connection with
any crimes, all you are required to say is "I want to consult
with a lawyer", but these are not magic words to make you
immune from any reprisals and should not be considered as
such. While you are in their custody, you are at their mercy;
and it is extremely hard to prove that the cops coerced a
confession out of you.

You may be put into a cell by yourself or with another
occupant. Nine chances out of ten your cellmate is a snitch in
service to the police to wheedle you out of information so
s/he can get paid or receive a lighter sentence. To him/her all

that should be said is: "I don't know why I'm here. I've never committed a crime in my life". And leave it at that.

When your interrogation begins, they will usually rouse you out of bed early in the morning, before you have eaten and cleaned yourself up. This is done to have an advantage over you. What you should do is be constantly ready but well-rested at the same time. The interrogator will not like seeing you as well-groomed as he is. Never look down at the floor and never appear nervous or frightened. Always keep your head up and look them straight in the eye as though you are memorizing their features for identification later. Doing so will scare them.

During your session you may feel the urge to relieve yourself. But more than likely, your interrogator will refuse you the opportunity. After all, millions of confessions have been successfully obtained by refusing to let people use the toilet, because your concentration deteriorates quickly if you can't relieve yourself. Simply pull down your pants and shit in front of them. If you're handcuffed, shit or piss your pants. It's their fault and they know it, and so they will have to deal with it.

If they are particularly interested in what you may know, they will eventually begin beating you. When this happens: hit back! Give them everything you've got and beat the shit out of them. Don't be afraid to hit back. The harder they hit you, the harder you should hit back. If one cop holds you while another cop beats you, try to curl up into a ball on the floor. They'll kick the shit out of you but that's when you've got them by the balls. Afterwards, demand to see your own personal doctor or one that isn't employed by the police, and that you want to contact your lawyer. Tell them that you refuse to see anyone else because their doctors will hide any damage they've done.

You should do your best to stay healthy during your visit; exercise by walking in your cell, push-ups, sit-ups, whatever. Stay alert. Sleep and eat whenever you can. When you're offered food, sit down and enjoy it. They will serve foods at



Prisoner Support Groups/Useful Contacts

North American Earth Liberation Front Press
Office/*Resistance* Magazine Contact: Craig Rosebraugh,
Leslie James POB 4783, Portland, OR 97208 503-478-0902
elfpress@tao.ca

North American Animal Liberation Front Press Office
Contact: David Barbarash POB 3673, Courtenay, BC V9N
7P1 250-703-6312 naalfpo@tao.ca

UK Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network c/o
Cornerstone Resource Center, Leeds, LS7 3HB
earthlibprisoner@mail.com

UK ELP
c/o BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX, England
animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Gov. George Pataki of New York state recently proposed new anti-terrorism legislation that officially would make "eco-terrorism" (governmental doublespeak for what we would call eco-defense) a crime in New York state and that included an amendment that would make anyone convicted of "terrorism" eligible for the death penalty.

Pataki said the increasing number of terrorist attacks occurring in the state makes these new laws essential for helping combat these crimes.

The initiative was unveiled as the ALF and ELF claimed credit for string of vandalism at several banks on Long Island.

The governor proposed a legislation package, called the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001, that would establish six new categories of crime for people who commit terrorist acts, make terrorist threats, facilitate or provide material for terrorist acts and hinder the prosecution of terrorists.

The toughest proposal in the package would amend the death penalty statute to make a person who murders another person an act of terrorism eligible for the death penalty. Under current law, anyone convicted of such a crime cannot be considered for the death penalty.

Since the state propaganda machine has spent millions of dollars over the course of the last several years attempting to vilify underground revolutionary movements like the Earth Liberation Front, it shouldn't be difficult to predict where all this is heading. Now that the ELF and ALF have proven that the threat of longer and longer prison sentences is not enough to quell the spirit of resistance, the State is falling back on it's ultimate weapon of fear: legalized murder of political dissidents.

House Bill 2947, includes technical clarifications to better define crimes of research and animal interference and interference with livestock production. Also classifies such acts as Class C felonies if damage is 2,500 or more and as Class A misdemeanors if damage is less than \$2,500.

Maziotis sentence lowered to 5 ½ years!

We have just found out that Nikos Maziotis had his sentence reduced from 15 to 5 ½ years in a hearing two months ago.

New Prisoners

In England, Dave Blenkinsop has been jailed for "causing grievous bodily harm" to the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Prisoners Released!

In Europe, Charlotte Lewis, Jonathan Elliot, Mark Kulsdom, Robert Molenaar have all been released.

Frank Ambrose

Frank's pre-trial, set for April 5th, was postponed because of protests held at Federal buildings that day. Coincidentally, this was the same day that the North American ELF press office in Portland was raided by the FBI.

The Responsibility For Repression

"Why is it when faced with potentially severe repression we go all fucking liberal?"—Do or Die #9

Over the past few years, state repression against those who question the current social order has intensified. This can be traced to two significant factors: changes in social relationships that have made it unnecessary for the democratic state to disguise its repressive nature and a growing resistance that is increasingly using methods of direct attack rather than petition and negotiation.

In the United States, these attacks against the projects of capital have been largely centered on projects that infringe upon and destroy wild areas, exploit animals or involve the development of

genetically engineered organisms. The methods used in these attacks are generally fairly simple, using materials easily accessible to anyone, and are applicable to a wide variety of situations. It should, therefore come us no surprise that the state would try to suppress this tendency through criminalization and repression.

It is in this context that two bills before the Oregon state legislature can be understood. One of these bills would apply racketeering and organized crime laws to acts of sabotage against logging activities, animal research and the like if passed. The other would apply hate crime laws to illegal actions taken against environmental destruction or capitalism. If these laws are passed it would be possible for a person convicted of breaking a window, spiking a tree, sabotaging a piece of equipment or liberating animals from a laboratory to as much as 25 years in prison as a racketeering hate criminal.

This is also the context in which a recent raid on a punk house party in Portland, Oregon and the subsequent police harassment against punks on the streets, in which cops will question those stopped about their relationship to anarchism, can be understand. If anyone who might consider acting against the horrors of this society can be frightened into submission through harassment, it makes the job of the state easier.

When repression starts to hit close to home, it is easy to forget who is responsible for it. We have been well trained to see those that the state labels as criminals as such, and so it is easy to make the mistake of blaming those who have taken the path of illegal revolt for the repression we experience. But those who revolt are never to blame for repression. The state, and only the state, holds this responsibility. The aim of state repression is

suits and they'll continue to fight back regardless of how many more laws the state passes.

NY State pushes for longer jail terms for anti-genetic engineering activists

Prompted by last year's sabotage of genetically engineered corn at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (by the ELF), state lawmakers are pushing for prison terms of up to 7 Years for eco-terrorists who destroy crops intended for research in the burgeoning field of genetic engineering.

Legislators in Albany say the threat posed by vandals to genetic research is real enough to warrant tougher laws.

"It's not happening every other day, but it does happen," said State Sen. Carl Marcellino (R-Syosset), chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. "The legislation I've developed is a result of damage done." There is a parallel bill in the Assembly.

The move in the legislature to protect genetically engineered crops coincides with efforts by Gov. George Pataki and lawmakers to expand the state's biotechnology industry by extending hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives to the state's universities and companies. If the effort is successful, it could mean many more potential targets in New York State.

Denny Henke, a spokesman for Genetix Alert Press Office, a Memphis group that publicizes anti-genetic engineering activism, said that continued attacks are warranted. "The real vandalism and danger here is not destruction of genetically engineered crops but the crops themselves. When you manipulate an organism genetically, there's no guarantee that it's going to stay put," Henke said.

NY Governor Proposes Tough Anti-Terrorism Package: State Law Would Make Convicted Terrorists Eligible for the Death Penalty

livestock and agricultural facilities and make "interference with agricultural research" a new crime.

Washington State Update

Not to be outdone, Washington State is also proposing new laws targeting direct actionists in the wake of the recent ELF fires at the University of Washington and Jefferson Polar Farms. Mink farmer Harvey Beck has this to say at a hearing for this new bill:

"Peaceful protests and civil discourse are welcome," Beck said. "But we must find out how we as a society can stop an international crime spree driven by a poorly conceived and fundamentally flawed philosophy, the sad and confused philosophy of (the) Animal and Earth Liberation (Fronts)."

Washington state's sabotage law was written in 1903 in response to local anarchist groups, and it needs to be updated to include new targets, such as university researchers. The legislator who proposed this bill had this to say: "They need some reassurance that we're taking notice and will respond appropriately and that we're concerned about terrorist activities."

Hands off our Kids?

House of Reps bill 1847 IH has been put forth, subtitled the "Hands off our Kids Bill" (no, really). This worthless bill "requires the Attorney General to identify organizations that recruit juveniles to participate in violent and illegal activities related to the environment or to animal rights". The reality is that there's no need for groups like Earth First! or the Earth Liberation Front to recruit amongst the young; the youth of today already realize that their planet and their future is being stolen from them by power-crazed lunatics in three piece

precisely to frighten people away from active revolt. If we succumb before repression, holding ourselves back and calling on others to hold back out of fear, the state has succeeded. In the face of state repression, it is necessary to attack more intelligently and more fiercely.

FROM "Willful Disobedience" #7
41 Sutter St., Suite 1661, San Francisco CA 94104

Untitled

As I sit here in my cell looking out at the night I feel as if I'm somewhere else
But the sky isn't right
I'm thinking of some of the beautiful places I've been where the sky isn't orange
And the grass is still green.

You see, here all I smell is the stench of a city's waste
Lock away societies problems
With prejudice and distaste
The sky that I see is a sodium haze
I would almost imagine the world was ablaze

Not like my dreams where I breathe fresh air
But sights so green are increasingly rare
So I need to get out to protect what's left
Cause the thought of the shitty city leave me bereft of hope
and spirit, this place bleeds me dry
A cell in a prison in a city
The cities are the real prisons
Where everyone is trapped
And the use of TV for Visions
This can be changed
By simple things that we do
Please believe me cause I'm not sure I do.

DEATH SAYS...

Glory to the D.o.T Because they brash and kill for me

Praise be to the W.T.O
 Because of them there few barriers to go
 Little fish, big fish are all caught in my net But my money
 grabbing friends I shant forget Aid a revolution fund and start
 a war
 I don't care about politics
 I'm not keeping score
 You rape and kill the land
 So Karma Geddon is now at hand
 A place in hell is reserved for them
 As they trash this spherical gem
 With G.M crops, wars and words
 My friend poison the land
 And kill the birds
 Men, animals, ideals all sold for profit
 To line the sides of their blood smeared pockets
 So glory to those who love money
 It's better than these taste of sugar or honey
 Just one speck in the cosmos
 For commercial gain is it such a loss?

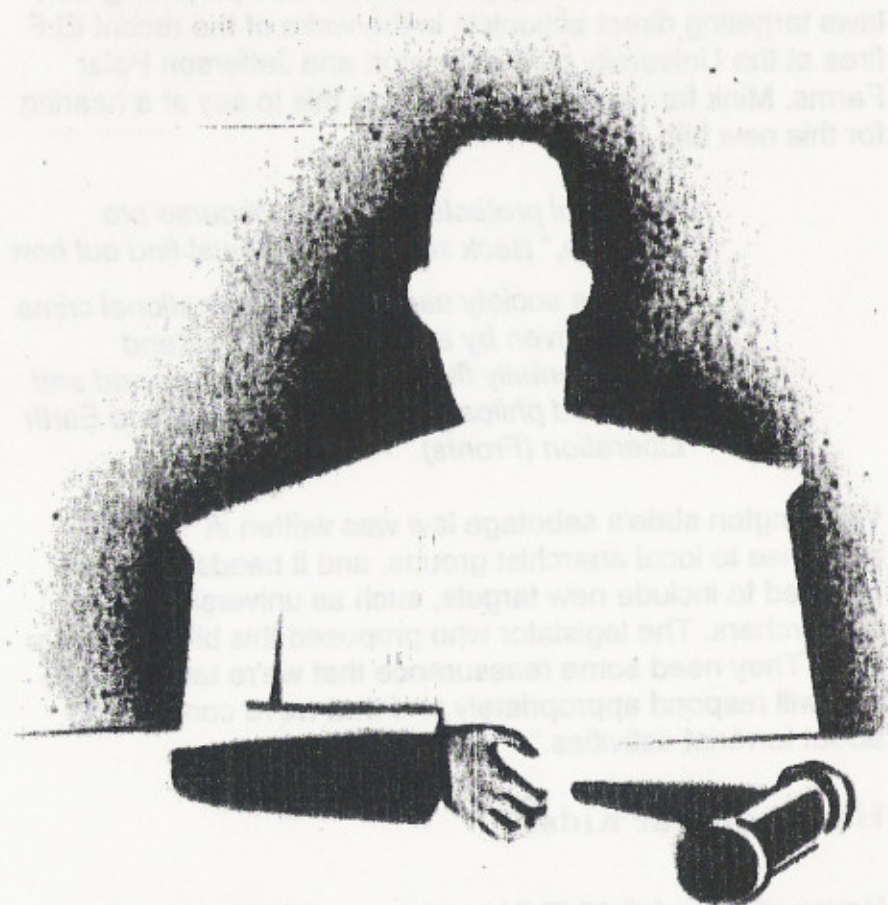
Lee Himlin

The Importance Of Prisoner Support By Michael Collins (Mayday 2000 prisoner)

Prison is a weapon used by the state to crush individuals who step out of line: To isolate them; to punish them and their loved ones; to threaten; to make an example of; to, as Ali Khalid Abdullah said: "humiliate, dominate, control, destroy."

Since all effective political opposition has been criminalized, if you are working for political change and not breaking the law, well, you aren't doing it right. And since the government has made it clear that it intends to send more criminals to prison on longer sentences, then we can expect more political prisoners. So it is essential that we build a strong and effective prisoner support network.

Fascist Legislation in the Works: The State's response to the growing effectiveness of the radical environmental movement



Since the last issue of *Spirit of Freedom*, the Oregon State government has used increased resistance in the Northwest as further justification to pass their hate crime bills. On June 2, just a day after log trucks were burnt near Eagle Creek and on the same day that the ELF communiqué regarding the UW/Clatskanie fires came out, government peons passed the following legislation:

House Bill 2344 and HB2385. They expand Oregon's racketeering statutes to include crimes against research,

Anarchist Nikos Maziotis on hunger strike in solidarity with the struggle of political prisoners in Turkey against the white-cells.

His letter from prison is the following:

"Despising death, Turkish and Kurdish imprisoned comrades continue their struggle against the new isolation cells. While the capitalist "democracies" of the West, including the greek state which imposes an antiterrorist law under the pressure of the USA, are all naturally the accomplices in the crimes of the turkish state, at the same time many revolutionary prisoners in Europe, such as from PCE(r) and GRAPO in Spain, from Action Directe in France and from the Combating Communists Cells in Belgium, have expressed their solidarity with the Turkish and Kurdish comrades, by making few-days hunger strikes by turns, starting from April until today. After the 5-days symbolic hunger strike I made in December 2000, this time I participate from June 9 to 13 in this international movement of hunger strikes in solidarity with the Turkish and Kurdish comrades. Because prisons, isolations, tortures, antiterrorist laws, repression, are implemented by all states and by all governments. Because Revolt against the State, the Capital and the New Order is Just. Because Solidarity is our Weapon."

9 June 2001
Nikos Maziotis,
Koridallos Prison
Athens, Greece

**The Earth First! Journal has moved to Tucson with a new collective but is still offering free prisoner subscriptions. The latest issue looks great. Contact them at: EF!J, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702, 520-620-6900
collective@earthfirstjournal.org**

I've been inside for 8 months and I've had wonderful support from a small group of individuals who regularly write to me. Earth Liberation Prisoners support group and Brighton ABC have been great. Sometimes a single letter has changed a day of despair into a day of hope. I've made contact with a fair few individuals and groups in this country and abroad.

Some exchanges of letters have helped me think through certain aspects of my politics. I've received a lot of cards just saying "you are not forgotten, the struggle continues". Some people just write chatty letters about going to the pub or whatever, which is great. I mean, no one wants to talk politics all the time. One regular correspondent likes to keep me up to date with the latest news of Buffy the Vampire Slayer for some reason, bless 'er. So if you ever think of writing to a prisoner, and then never get around to it because you can't think of anything to write, well, it doesn't have to be a long, interesting intellectual letter. A short message of support will do, maybe a postcard to brighten the cell.

Beyond letters - practical support. Letters of solidarity go a long way to making prison more bearable, but money and other stuff can help a lot. Every prisoner gets a minimum of £2.50 "unemployment benefit" a week, and if you work you can earn between 50p and a couple of quid a day. On top of that you are allowed an amount from your private cash each week, usually £10.00. A lot of money is spent on phone cards. The food in prison is crap, so I tend to buy stuff from the canteen to supplement my diet - vitamins, peanut butter, museli. Basically we are all pretty skint, and even with money in our private accounts, we can't spend much each week. So find out what a prisoner is allowed to have sent in - it differs from prison to prison. For example at Wandsworth people sent me music tapes, art materials, envelopes, writing paper, magazines. Here at Elmley I'm only allowed stamps, books and some magazines. Other prisons don't even allow stamps. Ask prisoners what is allowed, and if there is anything they need. If they need cash, ask your mates for a couple of quid each, the price of a pint, and sent off a postal order - registers mail, unless you want it to go towards the Screws Xmas party.

But if you're skint, don't worry, just write. I can't emphasize enough just how important it is to have this contact with the outside world. When you're banged-up in a small cell 23 hours a day, feeling bored or angry or scared or depressed, a letter does more than just cheer you up, it keeps you sane. Solidarity is our only defense in this situation.

I said that I've had great support, but it has been from a handful of hard-working individuals. ELP and Brighton ABC are not massive organizations co-coordinating support for prisoners. More people need to get involved, and if you are serious about a struggle for political change, that means you!



Michael Collins
FR6303
HMP Elmley
Eastchurch
Kent, ME12 4AY
England



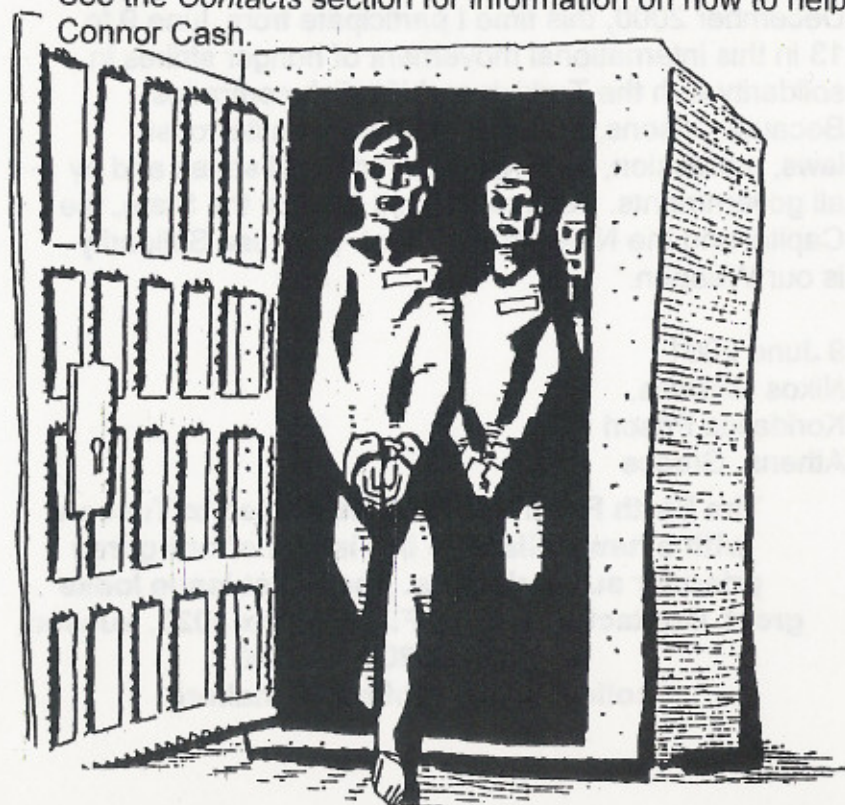
STANDING DEER - *Native American Political Prisoner*

In 1978 Standing Deer, an Oneida/Choctaw American Indian exposed a government plot to assassinate American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Leonard Peltier in Marion federal penitentiary. This bizarre case has been documented in several books including *"In the Spirit of Crazy Horse"* by Peter Matthiessen. In 1984 Standing Deer, Leonard Peltier, and Albert Garza fasted for 42 days to draw worldwide attention to the deplorable conditions at USP Marion, the Super Maximum Security federal prison.

In his Marion Death Fast statement Standing Deer wrote in part: "All of the above things I could probably learn to live with because I realize that Marion is America's #1 gulag for political prisoners, and I know that my brothers, friends and comrades in here are suffering the same indignities. But there is one outrage that I can no longer tolerate. I will no longer

On February 15th Connor was arrested by FBI agents and indicted on the charge of arson conspiracy. Three other teens were arrested in the days prior to Connor's arrest, the three teens each plead guilty to one count of arson conspiracy in an agreement that they would cooperate with federal investigators. The agreement made by the three teens cleared them of being prosecuted of many other severe felony crimes. It is not known as of yet as to the nature of Connor's indictment, but it is assumed that one of the three teens purged testimony implicating Connor during a closed grand jury proceeding as part of his plea bargain agreement. The three teens all face up to 40 years imprisonment, but if they implicate others they could end up serving less than 5 years. Unlike the other three teens Connor has entered a plea of innocent, and had bail set at the amount of \$250,000. Connor's family put a lean on their home as a form of collateral to attain Connor's release from custody. Connor is currently free pending future trial dates and is in desperate need of your help in order to prove that he is truly innocent!

See the *Contacts* section for information on how to help Connor Cash.



By the summer of 1999 Federal and State authorities began to investigate the Long Island Chapter of the Animal Defense League (ADL). Local and Federal authorities began to probe the ADL searching for leads pertaining to the militant direct action group the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), a group who partakes in liberations of animals from places of abuse and acts of economic sabotage against industries cruel to animals. ADL members often fell victim to arrests, beatings, trumped up charges, and even imprisonment for their unwillingness to cooperate with an activist witch hunt. The level of political repression and intimidation the animal rights activist would continue to rise throughout 1999 and into 2000, when after the summer of 2000 when the witch hunt was broadened to include environmental activists, anti-globalization activists, and even advocates for the homeless and hungry. By December of 2000 Connor became such target, as a result of his involvement in Food Not Bombs/ and The Modern Times Collective.

When media outlets began to report that actions being taken by radical factions of the environmental and animal liberation movements were intensifying, authorities responded by intensifying their investigations.

In January 2001 Connor and other youth activists were approached at their homes by federal agents asking them to divulge any information they could provide to help shed light on their stagnating investigations. Federal agents made both verbal and physical threats to activists trying to coerce them into providing information pertaining to their case. One financially burdened activist was offered a bribe of many thousands of dollars in hopes that the activist would infiltrate the ADL, another was told he would be charged with crimes if he did not cooperate, and Connor too was approached and threatened by agents stating, *"it's going to be your ass if you do not cooperate."* At that moment Connor contacted Attorney Fred Brewington, acclaimed for his civil rights cases and hired him. From the day Connor refused to cooperate and implicate other activists until February 15th, he and friends were followed by photographers and videographers.

allow the united states to continue to deny me the right to practice my religion. For 491 years the religion of my people has been trampled on and disrespected by the sea pirates and many of their descendents who invaded my shores so long ago. For those of us who today wish to follow the religion and teachings of our grandfathers, the road is rocky and the struggle is hard even under conditions in the so-called "free world." But for American Indians in Marion federal prison, we have been cast into a spiritual wastebasket where every aspect of our religion is denied.

"Leonard and me enter into this fast not out of despair or depression but with a joyful commitment of total love and dedication to our people. We must have our Pipe, drum, sweat lodge and access to our outside spiritual people. We will fast until we are either granted our constitutional right to practice our religion or until we return to our Creator. If the united states does not wish us to die they have but to obey their own laws. If we do die, the united states' total disregard for human rights will be our murderers."

In retaliation for the 42-day fast, the government held these three men in solitary isolation for 15 months with nothing in their cages except a steel bunk and toilet. The door to their cage was never opened unless their hands were handcuffed behind their backs and four guards with clubs were present to supervise their every move (what the Marion Control Unit calls "a four man order".) After a year of these hideous terms of confinement attorney Margaret G. Gold filed a million dollar lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons that succeeded in having each of them transferred to separate maximum security prisons where they were allowed to practice their religion. In the summer of 1985 Peltier went to USP Leavenworth (where he remains to this day); Garza went to USP Lewisburg; and Standing Deer to USP Lompoc.

Two months after arriving at Lompoc, Standing Deer was accused of leading 30 Indian brothers in a protest over issues of religious denial.

Once again, Margaret Gold filed a lawsuit styled Standing Deer v Carlson, but before trial he was thrown in the hole and held incommunicado for seven days. He was then taken to the airport in the middle of the night wearing nothing but chains and boxer shorts, and flown in a small plane with five FBI agents and turned over to McAlester prison in Oklahoma, the prison from which he had escaped ten years earlier. He had been kicked out of the federal prison system without even completing his federal sentence, prompting him to quip, "I've been kicked out of places before, but never a whole prison system!"

Standing Deer's new prison was a Control Unit just like Marion - a cesspool of sadistic mistreatment. Ben Carnes, a young Choctaw brother, filed a lawsuit against the system for the denial of the right to practice Indian religion. Once again Margaret Gold dropped everything and rushed from New York to Oklahoma to conduct a trial along with two local attorneys. The lawsuit was successful in gaining exemptions from forced haircutting for the brothers who hold their hair to be sacred.

In 1992, after seven years in the McAlester supermax Standing Deer discharged his Oklahoma sentence and was extradited to Texas where he faced a life sentence. He was immediately thrown in the hole at the Ellis prison in Huntsville which had the reputation as the toughest prison in Texas.

In spite of the wretched prison conditions and failing health Standing Deer continues to do all he can in the struggle to free Leonard Peltier and save Mumia Abu-Jamal. The Texas prison system has locked him in the hole for telling the truth in his political writings, but he continues to fight for human dignity and religious freedom for imprisoned American Indians.

April 6, 2001 marks Standing Deer's twenty-fifth year of continuous confinement in some of the worst prisons this country has to offer. At 68 his health is very bad. Texas has given him five parole hearings since 1993 but all were denied in spite of the pleas of his family, children and grandchildren.

Standing Deer's words from his prison cell: "I will continue to struggle In Total Resistance whether in here or out there until the day I cross over to the Spirit World. To all of you who struggle in unity to make our Mother Earth a sweeter nesting

place for our children and our generations yet unborn I extend the left hand of my left arm which is closest to my heart. My love, Strength and prayers are with you. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse. FREE PELTIER-SAVE MUMIA!"

Profile on Connor Cash

Connor Cash is 19 year old human rights and environmental activist and a role model for his Long Island peers. Residing in Sound Beach Long Island, NY, Connor co-founded Long Island Food Not Bombs! a hunger relief program in Port Jefferson Station, in the Spring of 1999. Food Not Bombs! is a feeding program set up so that people who are homeless, hungry or needy can get a hot meal when area soup kitchens are closed (every weekend). Connor and Food Not Bombs! helped to provide some of Port Jefferson Station's more economically deprived and needy residents with hot food, produce, clothing, and most of all dignity. Today, only 3 years later, chapters of Food Not Bombs! exist in not only Port Jefferson, but also Mastic, Patchogue, Hempstead, and Bayshore Long Island, providing much needed food in those economically depressed towns.

In addition to Connor's work with Food Not Bombs! he is also a member and outspoken organizer of the Modern Times Collective (MTC), an autonomous youth activist network, which works on a wide array of issues ranging from raising awareness on sweatshop issues to counsel sessions for *at risk* or suicidal teens.. In addition to his organizational work in MTC and Food Not Bombs. Connor also volunteered on various other environmental justice, social justice and animal rights campaigns. As other's respect and admiration of Connor as an activist grew, there was an unfortunate drawback, Connor became a target of a national probe into activist collectives by federal authorities.